

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 08569 01 OF 02 080426Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
ACDA-07 DHA-05 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 ERDA-05
COME-00 EB-08 EPA-01 NSF-01 OES-07 INT-05 STR-05
/130 W

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R 071717Z OCT 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1741
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 8569

USEEC

BELGRADE FOR CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECE, CSCE
SUBJECT: USSR VIEWS ON ECE AND CSCE

CHARGE AND MISSION OFFICERS MET AT LUNCH OCTOBER 6
WITH THREE USSR MISSION OFFICERS (INCLUDING DCM ORNATSKY)
AND RUSSIAN ECE DEPUTY CHESTNOY FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING
ECE MATTERS. FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED:

(1) HUMAN RIGHTS AT BELGRADE: SOVIETS RAISED ISSUE AND
STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING EXCESSIVE CRITICISM WHICH
COULD POISON ATMOSPHERE AND HARM DETENTE. WE ASSURED THEM THE
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 08569 01 OF 02 080426Z

U.S. WAS NOT LOOKING FOR CONFRONTATION, HAD NO DESIRE
TO SINGLE OUT USSR, BUT DID WANT A FRANK EXAMINATION OF THE
WAY ALL CSCE STATES HAD CARRIED OUT ALL ASPECTS OF CSCE
AGREEMENT. THEIR RESPONSE WAS "YES, BUT THERE SHOULD BE LIMITS
TO CRITICISM." WE AGREED. CHESTNOY EXPRESSED PLEASURE
THAT INITIAL BELGRADE STATEMENTS TOUCHING ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAD
NOT NAMED COUNTRIES. FACETIOUSLY, HE SAID HE ASSUMED THESE

CRITICISMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CONCERNED
THE U.S.; NOT THE USSR.

(2) BREZHNEV PROPOSALS: USSR MISSION OFFICERS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE OUTCOME OF THE RECENT ECE SENIOR ADVISERS MEETING AND PROBED U.S. VIEWS ON TOPICS WE MIGHT FAVOR FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETING. WE NOTED THAT WE ARE NOT CONVINCED ANY TOPICS MET AGREED CRITERIA, BUT STATED CROSS-BOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION TOPIC SEEMED MOST PROMISING. LOW-WASTE TECHNOLOGY APPEARED AS SECOND POSSIBILITY. THEY GAVE MILD PUSH FOR DANUBE-BLACK SEA MARINE POLLUTION (NOTE: LOCAL TURKS REPORT GOT IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM EE BLACK SEA RIPARIANS TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM ON SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL OF RIPARIAN STATES. THEY FEAR USSR OBJECTIVE MAY BE TO DE-INTERNATIONALIZE BLACK SEA, AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE MATTER DISCUSSED IN BROADER CONTEXT, SUCH AS ECE. HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT READY TO SUPPORT USSR IDEA OF HAVING THIS ON THE AGENDA OF THE HIGH-LEVEL ENVIRONMENT MEETING UNTIL THEY HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF THE LIKELY OUTCOME. END NOTE). WE INDICATED THAT IF HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WERE TO BE HELD, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT HOLD THE NUMBER OF AGENDA ITEMS DOWN TO TWO OR THREE. RUSSIANS SAID THEY AGREED. ON POSSIBLE ENERGY CONFERENCE, THEY ASKED OUR ATTITUDE TO BELGIAN (SIC) AND AUSTRIAN INTENTIONS TO SUPPORT IDEA AT BELGRADE. WE SAID WE HAD NOT HEARD THAT BELGIUM PLANNED TO DO THIS AND WOULD BE SURPRISED. WE SAID WE WERE REVIEWING OUR OWN ATTITUDE. WE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF USSR VIEW THAT HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS WOULD BE IN 3 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 08569 01 OF 02 080426Z

PHASES LIKE CSCE. THEY RESPONDED THAT THEIR IDEA WAS TO START WITH A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING, FOLLOWED BY TECHNICAL WORK, TO BE CLIMAXED BY ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL MEETING. WE SAID WE THOUGHT THE US WOULD WANT TECHNICAL WORK TO PRECEDE ANY HIGH-LEVEL MEETING.

(3) BASKET II AT BELGRADE: THEY SAID THAT MERE REVIEW OF FULFILLMENT OF HELSINKI BASKET II AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH, AND THAT PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WOULD ALSO BE IMPORTANT. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERY AS TO WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND, SOVIETS MERELY NOTED BREZHNEV CONFERENCE PROPOSALS AND NEED FOR SOLUTION TO MFN PROBLEM. WE SAID RAISING LATTER AT BELGRADE WOULD ONLY LEAD TO FUTILE REPETITION OF PAST DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE.

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 08569 02 OF 02 080417Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 8569

(4) ECE PARTICIPATION AT BELGRADE: CHESTNOY REFERRED TO LOCAL PRESS REPORT SAYING THAT ECE STAFFER STILLMAN HAD BEEN DENIED ENTRY TO CSCE MEETING. (ECE HAS NOT HAD DIRECT REPORT FROM STILLMAN). WE REPLIED WE HAD NO INFO ON THIS. (NOTE: WE WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT FROM BELGRADE ON STATUS OF ECE PARTICIPATION IN BASKET II WORK AND U.S. POSITION). FROM GENEVA VIEWPOINT, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE ECE INVOLVED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE SO THAT ECE WORK PROGRAM WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND OVERLAP CAN BE AVOIDED.

(5) DATE FOR ECE TRADE COMMITTEE: CHESTNOY, ALLEGING HE WAS SPEAKING ENTIRELY PERSONALLY, SAID IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO POSTPONE ECE TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING FROM LATE NOVEMBER DATE NOW FORESEEN UNTIL AFTER BELGRADE CONCLUSION, PARTLY BECAUSE MANY OF THOSE WHO WOULD NORMALLY ATTEND TRADE COMMITTEE ARE ON BELGRADE DELEGATIONS. WE NOTED PRESENT DATE ALSO CONFLICTS WITH DATE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 08569 02 OF 02 080417Z

GATT CP SESSION, SO THAT CHANGE MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA. DEPARTMENT PLEASE INFORM US IF U.S. WOULD HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS IDEA.

(6) EE DEBT: ORNATSKY RAISED DEBT QUESTION, ARGUING THAT INSINUATIONS IN SOME QUARTERS THAT EASTERN DEBT MIGHT BE GETTING OUT OF HAND WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND AIMED AT HARMING DETENTE.

(7) COSTS: ORNATSKY SAID THERE ARE MANY TOO MANY MEETINGS, INCLUDING IN ECE, AND SAID DELEGATIONS SHOULD TAKE HARD LOOK AT WORK PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE THOSE NOT REALLY USEFUL. HE ARGUED CHANCES FOR SUCCESS BETTER IN ECE THAN IN, SAY, UNCTAD, WHERE LDCS IN CONTROL. WE OF COURSE FULLY AGREED ON COOPERATING TO KEEP COSTS DOWN. SORENSON

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